

May 14, 2001

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U.S. FDA
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852
FAX - 301-827-6870

Subject: Docket # 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Madam/Sir:

I am writing this letter today regarding the market for 'downed animals'.

"Downed animals" are cows, steer, pigs, and sheep who, because of grave injuries or illness, are unable to stand or walk. Historically, the livestock industry has treated these animals brutally: they are kicked, beaten, and dragged all the way to the slaughterhouse to be killed and rendered.

Last year, in a landmark policy, the USDA announced: "USDA will no longer accept ground beef that includes product from non-ambulatory cattle, commonly known as 'downers,'" for Federal programs, including the National School Lunch Program. Now, a petition has been filed with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to completely prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. By cutting out the market for downed animals, the livestock industry will have more of an incentive to treat animals humanely, euthanizing "downed animals" on-farm, and more importantly, preventing the injuries that cause "downed animals" in the first place.

I completely support Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1.

Sincerely,



MARY ANN WENTZEL
3663 Robert Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63116

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